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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Korea

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in North Korea

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Comment. A Peiping broadcast of 27 March 1953 announced the reorganization of the North Korean Ministry of Social Security and its establishment as the Department of Social Security subordinate to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. this reorganization took place in November 1952.

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General Functions of the Ministry of Social Security

1. In early 1952, the North Korean Ministry of Social Security (MSS) was the state agency mainly responsible for maintaining the national security and affording protection against all individuals and groups who endangered this security. The MSS, which was directly subordinate to the North Korean cabinet, operated intelligence nets in all political, economic, and social organizations. Its agents were deployed throughout the country and at all social levels, in the army, and in other government agencies. On the basis of the information collected, the MSS did its major planning. It was also the function of MSS agents to arrest, interrogate, and indict those who were charged with crimes against the regime, and to confirm the facts in criminal cases brought to trial by the MSS.

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